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26. ROLE OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS IN COMBATTING TERRORISM

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INTRODUCTION

Growing extent and severity of terrorist attacks, employment of new sophisticated and dangerous methods including potential and actual use of the weapons of mass destruction, mainly CBW agents and increasing transnational character of terrorist organizations and groups need resolute actions of civil society and its governmental and non-governmental organizations on national, as well as international level. It seems that only joint coordinated effort can bring tangible results in combating terrorism, not to speak on the desired but maybe never reached final goal, to eradicate terrorism together with its causes.

There is no doubt that beside contemporary ethnic, religious, economic and political sources of terrorism as organized crime, the historically oldest roots of terrorism are connected with illicit drug and weapon trade achieving global extent. It is therefore obvious that those problems became point of attention of the most important international organization, UNO since its foundation.

This paper reviews the roots and development of the present UN system, growing from the first efforts to build a world system for combating drugs trade, long before foundation of UNO to the establishment of the UN Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention (ODCCP) in 1997 including its Centre for International Crime Prevention (CICP) for combating organized international crime including terrorism (also in 1997). Because of growing terrorism as one typical face of organized international crime, the UN system for combating terrorism is developing in this direction that is witnessed by establishing Terrorism Prevention Branch (TPB) within the CICP in 1999.

The above mentioned UN system as a functioning network with its tasks, organization, field stations around the Globe and links to other international and national governmental agencies, organizations and NGOs is portrayed in this paper.

ROOTS AND DEVELOPMENT OF GLOBAL SYSTEM FOR COMBATTING ORGANISED CRIME

The roots of present UN system can be found just in 1909, when the Opium Commission in Shanghai was founded. To the most important milestones of build-up of the present system belong UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the Division of Narcotic Drugs (1946), the First UN Congress on Crime Prevention and Treatment of Offenders (1955), establishing International Narcotic Control Board (1968), adopting the Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (1988) and establishment of the UN International Drug Control Programme, UNDCP (1991) and lastly of the above mentioned UN Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention (ODCCP) with its Headquarters in Vienna (1997). Main data from this development can be listed as follows:

Main data on the development to present UN system for combating organized crime:

1909 - Opium Commission Shanghai

1912 - First Opium Convention

1946 - UN establishes the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) and the Division on

Narcotic Drugs

- 1955 - First UN Congress on Crime Prevention and Treatment of Offenders
- 1961 - Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs
- 1968 - International Narcotics Control Board established
- 1971 - Convention on Psychotropic Substances
- 1979 - UN drug control bodies move from Geneva to Vienna
- 1979 - Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch moves from New York to Vienna
- 1987 - Adoption of Comprehensive and Multidisciplinary Outline of Future Activities in Drug

Abuse Control

- 1988 - Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances
- 1990 - UN General Assembly adopts the Global Programme of Action against Illicit Drugs
- 1991 - United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) established
- 1997 - UN Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention (ODCCP) established
- 1997 - UN Centre for International Crime Prevention (CICP) established
- 1998 - 20th Special Session of the UN General Assembly devoted to countering the world

drug problem

- 1999 - Terrorism Prevention Branch established as a part of the CICP

THE ROLE AND FUNCTIONS OF THE UN DRUG CONTROL PROGRAMME

Illicit drugs are a global problem in connection with terrorism. More than 200 mln people abuse drug worldwide. The images span all segments of society: the urban professional snorting cocaine in a downtown nightclub, the glue-sniffing street children in the slums of developing world, the farmer addicted to the opium poppy he grows and the teenage Ecstasy user in a comfortable suburban home. Drug use is responsible for lost wages, soaring health care costs, broken families and deteriorating communities. Intravenous drug use is also fuelling the rapid spread of AIDS and hepatitis. There is a direct link between drugs and increase in crime and violence. Drug cartels undermine governments and corrupt legitimate business. In some countries, addicts supporting their habits commit more than 50 per cent of thefts. Revenues from illicit drugs fund some of the deadly armed conflicts. The financial toll is staggering. Enormous sums of money are spent every year to strengthen police forces, border patrols, judicial systems and treatment and rehabilitation programmes. The social costs are equally jarring: street violence, gang warfare, fear, urban decay and shattered lives.

After years of finger pointing between countries, the international community enters the new millennium with there unified will of governments to eliminate the illegal drug trade worldwide. UNDCP's approach is multifaceted. Besides prevention, treatment and rehabilitation programmes including alternative development assistance, UNDCP collaborates with Interpol and World Customs Organization sharing information on global trafficking trends, smuggling *modus operandi* and drug courier profiles. Illicit trafficking is further curbed through the delivery of expert training to improve interdiction and investigation techniques and supported through the provision of operational equipment.

To the important operational programmes of the UNDCP belong:

- *Global Programme Against Money Laundering* (This programme assists governments in confronting the criminals through the international financial system. The programme provides training in financial investigation to business, law enforcement and judicial professionals. It also builds stronger legal and institutional frameworks and undertakes the groundwork for the creation of Financial Intelligence Units).

- *Global Assessment Programme* (This programme, known as GAP supplies exact and current statistics on illicit drug consumption in order to find best preventive strategies).

- *Legal Assistance Programme* (This system cooperates with states to implement drug control treaties by helping to draft domestic legislation and train judicial officials. More than 1400 key personnel have received legal training and over 130 countries have received legal assistance).

On the UNDCP global network can be witnessed according its Field Offices, located in: Afghanistan (temporarily in Pakistan), Barbados, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Egypt, India, Islamic Republic of Iran, Kenya, Lao PDR, Latvia, Mexico, Myanmar, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, Senegal, Thailand and Viet Nam.

For the coming years very important pledge was adopted by member states at the Special Session of the UN General Assembly on the World Drug Problem (held in June 1998): to significantly reduce both the demand and supply for illegal drug by the year 2008.

CENTRE FOR INTERNATIONAL CRIME PREVENTION AND ITS ROLE

The age of globalisation has opened up new forms of transnational crime. Organized criminal groups are expanding at an alarming rate bringing with them violence, intimidation and corruption of public officials. New challenges of crime prevention and criminal justice need cooperative action. Since its establishment within the framework of the UN Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention (ODCCP) in 1997, the CICP has developed its activities (beside special activities in terrorism prevention) in following directions:

- *Legal instruments* (CICP supports member states in the elaboration of a Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime and three supplementary protocols, to be finalized in foreseeable future. It is envisaged that work on a universal Convention will commence thereafter).

- *Global Studies on Organized Crime* (Criminal groups have established international networks to better carry out their activities both in licit and illicit markets by employing sophisticated technology and diverse moods of action. The aim of the mentioned studies is to map latest trends of organized criminal groups and highlight their potential danger in order to setup preventive action).

- *Global Programme Against Corruption* (Corruption is a complex social, political and economic phenomenon. This programme targets countries with vulnerable developing or transitional economies by promoting anti-corruption measures and helping to make public sector actions more transparent).

- *Global Programme Against the Trafficking in Human Beings* (The smuggling of migrants and the trafficking of human beings for prostitution and slave labour are one of the fastest growing worldwide problems in recent years. Recent studies show a growing involvement of organized crime groups. This programme will enable countries of origin, transit and destination to develop joint strategies and practical actions).

The description of the CICP's role and activities is to be amended with the information that its headquarters is located at the UN Vienna Office. Its outpost is in Lebanon.

ODCCP, located at the Vienna International Centre (VIC) has approximately 360 staff members worldwide. It has 22 Field Offices worldwide, as well as two Liaison Offices in New York and Brussels. The ODCCP's Executive Director is Mr. Pino Arlacchi since 1997.

(ODCCP Headquarters postal address: United Nations Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention, Vienna International Centre, PO Box 500, A-1400 Vienna, Austria.)

THE TERRORISM PREVENTION BRANCH

To the most recent directions in the work of the CICP, since 1999 established as an organized body belong the Terrorism Prevention Branch (TPB). This body is mandated to enhance international cooperation and government response to terrorism.

This department of CICP has been working for relatively short time but it has however established good cooperative links to the relevant governmental and non-governmental international and national organizations, not to speak on the whole network of UN agencies through the ODCCP (such as FAO, IAEA, ILO, UNAIDS, UNICEF, UNCTAD, UNDP, UNESCO, UNEP, UNHC, UNIDO, UNICJR, UNV, WFP, WHO). Important are the links in the framework of law enforcement and legal affairs, as well as in various forms and problems of organized crime.

Among the links of the Terrorism Prevention Branch, following addresses can be found *inter alia*:

- International Policy Institute for Counter-Terrorism (www.counterror.org.il)
- US State Dept, Coordinator for Counter-Terrorism (www.state.gov/www/global/terrorism/)
- Terrorism Research Center, Inc. (www.terrorism.com/)
- Political Terrorism Database: geographic areas (polisci.home.mindspring.com/ptd.html)
- International Policy Institute for Counter-Terrorism (www.ict.org.il/default.htm)
- International Crisis Group (www.intl-crisis-group.org)
- Counter-terrorism bills and proposals (www.epic.org/privacy/terrorism)

SUMMARY

Roots and developments to present UN system for combating terrorism starting long before existence of UN are reviewed. Various forms of international crime as a base for terrorism are shown, *inter alia* illicit trafficking with drugs and weapons, money laundering, corruption, trafficking with human beings and like and response in build-up the UN system, headed by the

UN Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention (ODCCP), its Centre for International Crime Prevention (CICP) and the Terrorism Prevention Branch (TPB) established recently. Information on the role, functions and programmes of those bodies are presented.

KEY WORDS

International terrorism, narcotic drugs, crime prevention, combating terrorism, terrorism prevention, UNO, UNDCP, ODCCP, CICP, TPB

REFERENCES & SOURCES

ODCCP Press Releases and other documentation: Speeches (Major statements and speeches by ODCCP Executive Director Pino Arlacchi), Events (Reports on recent and upcoming ODCCP events in Vienna, New York and elsewhere), Newsletters (ODCCP quarterly UPDATE), Multimedia (videos are provided on a non-commercial basis for education purposes. The ODCCP Film/Archive contains issues dealing with drug control and crime prevention), Publications (ODCCP publications cover themes such as Drug Abuse, HIV/AIDS, Global Illicit Drug Trends, Global Illicit Drug Traffics), Bulletin on Narcotic Drugs, CND Documentation, Resolutions etc.

Most of printed materials are also available via internet (<http://www.odccp.org>).